



News from the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission
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CELEBRATE EARTH DAY BY VISITING NATURAL BRIDGE STATE PARK NATURE PRESERVE

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 23, 2004) – To commemorate Earth Day Week, the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) is conducting hikes on state nature preserves located throughout Kentucky during the month of April. On Saturday, May 1, visit Natural Bridge State Park State Nature Preserve in Powell County for Wildflower Weekend sponsored by the Kentucky Native Plant Society and Kentucky State Parks. For more information, contact Deborah White of KSNPC at (502) 573-2886.

State government agencies have joined together this year to celebrate Earth Day, which was April 22. Spearheaded by the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet (EPPC), the various cabinets have organized environmental related activities throughout the month of April.

Among the activities planned are family hikes, state government open houses, public library displays, *Read to Achieve* Earth Day readings, as well as tree planting and water testing events. For additional information on these activities and many others please refer to the state's comprehensive Earth Day Web site at www.environment.ky.gov/earthday.

This is the first time a statewide Earth Day campaign has been organized by state government. "We in state government have a special responsibility to be good stewards of Kentucky's air, water and land," said EPPC Secretary LaJuana S. Wilcher. "Earth day is an opportunity for state government agencies to review their practices and take action to make Kentucky a better place to live, work and play."

The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission's mission is to protect Kentucky's natural heritage by: (1) identifying, acquiring, and managing natural areas that represent the best-known occurrences of rare native species, natural communities and significant natural features in a statewide nature preserve system; (2) working with others to protect biological diversity; and (3) educating Kentuckians as to the value and purpose of nature preserves and biodiversity conservation.

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